

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 19-64, without prejudice or disclaimer, and AMEND claim 1, in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An e-commerce method for an e-commerce system, which includes a seller's terminal, a customer's terminal, a payment agent's terminal for making payment in behalf of the customer's terminal when a customer purchases a commodity from a seller, and commodity delivery means for delivering the commodity to a designated delivery destination, each of these various elements of the system having a function of communicating information with a desired information communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

at the customer's terminal

(a) sending an anonymous order to the seller's terminal for a commodity via the information communication network and designating a non-residential place other than a residential place of the customer as the delivery destination via the information communication network;

at the seller's terminal

(b) ~~assigning notifying the customer's terminal of~~ transaction identification (ID) information peculiar to said anonymous order and notifying the customer's terminal of said transaction ID information via the information communication network;

(c) requesting the payment agent's terminal for payment for the commodity, for which the customer's terminal made the anonymous order, using said transaction ID information;

(d) making arrangements to deliver the commodity to said non-residential place using the commodity delivery means; and

at the commodity delivery means

(e) transferring the commodity to a receiver for the commodity at said non-residential place.

2. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein in said commodity

transferring step (e), certification is made as to whether the receiver for the commodity is an authorized receiver, using receiver certifying information, which has been previously communicated between the seller and the customer.

3. (currently amended) An e-commerce method according to claim 2, wherein:
in said transaction ID information ~~notifying~~assigning step (b), said receiver certifying information, which is created at the seller's terminal, and price information of the transaction, together with said transaction ID information, are notified to the customer's terminal; and
in said payment requesting step (c), the customer's terminal notifies the payment agent's terminal of said transaction ID information and said price information, which have been notified by said seller's terminal, via the information communication network as the payment request.

4. (original) An electronic transaction method according to claim 2, wherein in said order sending step (a), the customer's terminal notifies the seller's terminal of receiver certifying information, which has been created by the customer's terminal when the customer's terminal has made said order, via the information communication network.

5. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 2, wherein:
in said commodity delivering step (d), a sales slip medium containing said transaction ID information in the form of a read-out code representing said receiver certifying information is delivered to said non-residential place and is attached to the commodity; and
in said commodity transferring step (e), the receiver for the commodity is certified as the authorized receiver, by reading out said transaction ID information of said sales slip medium using said receiver certifying information, which is known to the customer's terminal, as said read-out code.

6. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 5, wherein:
in said commodity delivering step (d), said transaction ID information is ciphered with said read-out code as a code key; and
in said commodity transferring step (e), said ciphered transaction ID information of said sales slip medium is deciphered using said code key.

7. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 5, wherein a digital signature

of the authorized receiver for the commodity is recorded in said sale slip medium using said receiver certifying information as a key for said digital signature of said sales slip medium.

8. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 7, wherein said sales slip medium in which said digital signature is recorded is delivered to the seller's terminal as a reusable receipt slip by the commodity delivery means.

9. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 2, wherein:

in said commodity delivering step (d), the commodity is delivered to a lockable commodity cabinet which is located in said non-residential place and is unlocked when said receiver certifying information, which is known to the customer's terminal, is input with respect to said commodity cabinet; and

in said commodity transferring step (e), said transferring of the commodity is carried out as said commodity cabinet is unlocked by inputting said receiver certifying information, which is known to the customer's terminal, with respect to said commodity cabinet.

10. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 2, wherein said receiver certifying information is biometrics data.

11. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein upon completion of delivery of the commodity to said non-residential place by said commodity delivering step (d), the seller's terminal notifies the customer's terminal of the completion of delivery of the commodity via the information communication network.

12. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 11, wherein in said commodity transferring step (e), certification is made as to whether the receiver for the commodity is an authorized receiver, using receiver certification information, which has been previously communicated between the seller and the customer.

13. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of notifying the customer's terminal of a status of delivery of the commodity in said commodity delivering step (d) by making a notice on information bulletin board means set up in the information communication network and notified by the customer's terminal.

14. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein:
at the customer's terminal
the customer makes arrangements to pay a predetermined amount of money
periodically to a customer's account established for the payment agent to make payment in
behalf of the customer; and
at the payment agent's terminal
the payment agent makes a direct debit of a price regarding the purchasing of the
commodity in said customer's account to make the payment.

15. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein at the commodity
delivery means, it is notified to the seller's terminal via the information communication network
that said transferring of the commodity has been carried out in said commodity transferring step
(e).

16. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein in said order
sending step (a), information about the customer also is sent from the customer's terminal to the
seller's terminal via the information communication network as marketing information.

17. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 1, wherein upon receipt of
said marketing information from the customer's terminal, at the seller's terminal the seller makes
a discount of the price of the commodity.

18. (original) An e-commerce method according to claim 16, wherein said marketing
information is age/sex information of the customer.

19-64. (cancelled)

65. (new) A method for conducting electronic commerce, comprising:
receiving an anonymous purchase order; and
assigning transaction identification information to said anonymous purchase order.